

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 2 (Original): An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3 having a glutamic acid to lysine change at amino acid 74.

Claim 3 (Original): An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a loss-of-function mutant of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the mutation in the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of:

a) n3400;

b) n3407; and

c) n3377, and wherein said mutation is a ced-9 loss-of-function mutation.

Claim 4 (Original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein said nucleic acid is from a nematode.

Claim 5 (Original): A vector, wherein said vector comprises the nucleic acid of

claim 1, 2, or 3.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The vector of claim 5, wherein said vector is within a~~ An isolated cell comprising the vector of claim 5.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~vector~~ cell of claim 6, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~vector~~ cell of claim 6, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.

Claim 9 (New): A nematode cell comprising the vector of claim 5.